

# Young Children In Care

Facts about outcomes of young children in open DCFS cases and what we need to do to improve their lives.

# Los Angeles County - DCFS Department Level Performance

## Federal Measure Review – By Age

| AGE           | SAFETY                          |                                | PERMANENCY  |  |   |                             |                         |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
|               | S1. Maltreatment in Foster Care | S2. Recurrence of Maltreatment | P1. Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Foster Care | P2. Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 12-23 Months | P3. Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 24 Months or More | P4. Re-entry to Foster Care | P5. Placement Stability |
|               | Oct-Dec 2015                    | Oct-Dec 2014                   | Oct-Dec 2014  | Oct-Dec 2014   | Oct-Dec 2014  | Oct-Dec 2013                | Oct-Dec 2014            |
| Under 1 Year  | 9.02                            | 8.1%                           | 24.3%   | 0%   | N/A   | 13.6%                       | 2.39                    |
| 1 - 2 Years   | 5.95                            | 8.2%                           | 29.5%   | 47.1%  | 55.6%   | 10.5%                       | 3.73                    |
| 3 - 5 Years   | 5.26                            | 7.1%                           | 33.2%   | 46.5%  | 48.5%   | 7%                          | 3.57                    |
| 6 - 10 Years  | 8.67                            | 7.8%                           | 34%   | 44.3%  | 35.7%   | 6%                          | 3.39                    |
| 11 - 15 Years | 10.14                           | 9.3%                           | 35.6%   | 41.1%  | 16.3%   | 6.2%                        | 4.46                    |
| 16 - 17 Years | 9.08                            | 6.1%                           | 20.1%   | 17.2%  | 5.1%  | 9.1%                        | 4.72                    |

Data Source: DCFS Dashboard CWS/CMS Data Mart \_ pull date 4.11.16

- Babies under one make up almost one in five (19%) of our Foster Care Entry Population.
- Children under five make up 45% of the entire foster care population.
- Of those under one, 26% are African American. They over-represent the general population (only 7%) almost four times.

- Our Basic Payment Rate as of July 1, 2015 for children under age five is \$22.00 a day while the payment for children age 15 and older is \$28.00 a day.
- 43% of our children 0-5 are placed in FFAs
- 66% of children under 5 enter care due to General Neglect Allegations



- Of the 229 DCFS children that received developmental screening by LA County 211 (telephone information and referral services), 76% had a high to moderate risk of developmental delays.
- 29% of these DCFS children screened by LA County 211 were found to have “high risk” for developmental delays, which is almost three times the national average of 11%.

Over half of all youth with the highest risk for negative outcomes;

- Have frequent stays at YWC (Now TSCs)
- Have multiple AWOLS
- Have multiple hospitalizations
- Have multiple stays at Exodus
- Have multiple placement moves or no available placements
- Have few or no permanent relationships with friends/family
- Were known to us when they were age 5 or younger.

\*During Fiscal Year 2013/2014, almost one in ten (9.5%) of those that aged out from foster care first entered care by age 3 and 12.3% entered by their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## DCFS Active Cases Children in DCFS Care by Age

### Data as of: April 12, 2016

| Age/Case Count                           | 0            | 1            | 2            | 3            | 4            | 5            | sub total     | % of total | Total         |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| <a href="#">Adoption</a>                 | 3            | 3            | 14           | 10           | 6            | 8            | 44            | 63%        | 70            |
| <a href="#">American Indian</a>          | 11           | 10           | 12           | 8            | 4            | 4            | 49            | 41%        | 119           |
| <a href="#">Asian Pacific</a>            | 6            | 12           | 15           | 6            | 9            | 14           | 62            | 27%        | 230           |
| <a href="#">Belvedere</a>                | 166          | 201          | 179          | 168          | 151          | 135          | 1,000         | 39%        | 2,573         |
| <a href="#">Compton</a>                  | 127          | 142          | 144          | 152          | 134          | 133          | 832           | 38%        | 2,202         |
| <a href="#">Deaf Services Unit</a>       | 1            | 5            | 3            | 1            | 2            | 4            | 16            | 23%        | 71            |
| <a href="#">El Monte</a>                 | 38           | 34           | 41           | 32           | 38           | 38           | 221           | 43%        | 520           |
| <a href="#">ERCP</a>                     | 1            |              |              |              |              |              | 1             | 7%         | 15            |
| <a href="#">Glendora</a>                 | 109          | 112          | 98           | 78           | 84           | 91           | 572           | 33%        | 1,725         |
| <a href="#">Lancaster</a>                | 130          | 150          | 165          | 157          | 137          | 135          | 874           | 39%        | 2,265         |
| <a href="#">MART</a>                     | 3            | 2            | 3            | 3            | 2            |              | 13            | 52%        | 25            |
| <a href="#">MCMS</a>                     | 32           | 57           | 49           | 43           | 24           | 27           | 232           | 41%        | 565           |
| <a href="#">Metro North</a>              | 167          | 204          | 167          | 139          | 139          | 122          | 938           | 47%        | 2,008         |
| <a href="#">Palmdale</a>                 | 116          | 112          | 140          | 102          | 94           | 116          | 680           | 37%        | 1,814         |
| <a href="#">Pasadena</a>                 | 91           | 123          | 97           | 94           | 73           | 70           | 548           | 36%        | 1,529         |
| <a href="#">Pomona</a>                   | 60           | 79           | 66           | 76           | 59           | 64           | 404           | 34%        | 1,200         |
| <a href="#">Santa Clarita</a>            | 80           | 107          | 84           | 87           | 69           | 62           | 489           | 37%        | 1,338         |
| <a href="#">Santa Fe Springs</a>         | 139          | 159          | 139          | 102          | 99           | 85           | 723           | 39%        | 1,834         |
| <a href="#">South County</a>             | 161          | 230          | 205          | 202          | 182          | 184          | 1,164         | 39%        | 2,948         |
| <a href="#">Torrance</a>                 | 91           | 93           | 90           | 83           | 80           | 70           | 507           | 39%        | 1,298         |
| <a href="#">Van Nuys</a>                 | 133          | 174          | 146          | 142          | 121          | 129          | 845           | 40%        | 2,122         |
| <a href="#">Vermont Corridor</a>         | 174          | 216          | 192          | 191          | 166          | 162          | 1,101         | 38%        | 2,872         |
| <a href="#">Wateridge</a>                | 190          | 292          | 254          | 242          | 232          | 239          | 1,449         | 41%        | 3,546         |
| <a href="#">West LA</a>                  | 36           | 50           | 34           | 24           | 38           | 22           | 204           | 37%        | 555           |
| <a href="#">West San Fernando Valley</a> | 76           | 84           | 70           | 72           | 59           | 66           | 427           | 41%        | 1,042         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>2,141</b> | <b>2,651</b> | <b>2,407</b> | <b>2,214</b> | <b>2,002</b> | <b>1,980</b> | <b>13,395</b> | <b>39%</b> | <b>34,486</b> |



A medium shot of a Black man with a shaved head and a slight smile, wearing a grey button-down jacket over a black shirt. He is seated in an office environment. In the background, there is a red armchair on the left and a black office chair on the right, with light-colored curtains behind them. The text "Delivery Room" is overlaid in large white font across the lower half of the image.

# Delivery Room

## Best Practice for Children 0-5 on open DCFS cases means:

### Training

- Train all CSWs/SCSWs/Managers and support staff on developmental and socio-emotional needs of this population.

### Assessment

- Ensure every child aged 0-5 on a DCFS open case receives a standardized and validated developmental screen.

### Develop Expertise and Resources in all Offices

- Develop office-based 0-5 Champions that have specialized training and support regarding this population.
- Develop a learning community around the needs of young children and their supports.
- Do regular case presentations where CSWs/SCSWs get support from the “0-5 Champions”

## Best Practice for Children 0-5 on open DCFS cases means (cont.):

### Aligning Protocols with Best Practice

- Refer all children ages 0-5 to an Early Child Education Program
- Explore and expand 0-5 resources at the SPA/Office level
- Address the specific needs of young children in every staffing or CFT involving children 0-5 with the understanding that children develop through relationships with their primary parent/caregiver

### Data, Data, Data

- Track 0-2 and 3-5 outcome data separate from older children as these children have very specific developmental and socio-emotional needs.

## Why this is important to anyone that works with young children

- Safety for young children is measured by a loving and attuned relationship with a parent or caregiver.
- Young children have different physical, developmental and emotional needs than older children
- Multiple placement moves and changes in CSWs place young children at risk for developmental and socio-emotional delays.
- Learning to soothe young children makes parents/caregivers feel more competent about their role.
- Caregivers should “fall in love” with their children and communicate with them often to ensure proper development and learning later in life. Young children have difficulty learning without a secure attachment figure in their lives.
- Meeting the needs of young children sets them up to have successful lives as they grow, develop and form long-lasting relationships.